

**APPENDIX A**  
**A COMPLETE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) An implantable port comprising  
a base having a passage for receiving an access tube;  
a valve assembly in the base, said valve assembly having a bore which  
receives the access tube and wherein the valve assembly opens in response to movement  
of the access tube;

a valve lock having a latch which shifts position to lock the valve  
assembly open in response to movement of the access tube prior to seating of the access  
tube in the bore of the valve assembly.

2. (As filed) An implantable port as in claim 1, wherein the valve  
assembly opens in response to motion of a needle.

3. (As filed) An implantable port as in claim 1, wherein the latch  
comprises at least one space-filling element which is displaced from the passage into a  
receptacle adjacent to the passage as the access tube is inserted into the passage, wherein  
space-filling element remains in the receptacle to lock the valve open so long as the  
access tube remains in the bore.

4. (As filed) An implantable port as in claim 3, wherein the valve  
assembly comprises a plunger and wherein a pair of space-filling elements is displaced  
both downwardly, to lower the plunger to open the valve, and outwardly into the  
receptacle, to lock the plunger open.

5. (Amended) An implantable port as in claim 3, wherein the latch  
comprises a pair of balls which are displaced laterally.

6. (Amended) An implantable port as in claim 1, wherein the valve assembly comprises a valve selected from the group consisting of pinch valves, sliding valves, slit valves, duckbill valves, and leaflet valves.

7. (As filed) An implantable port as in claim 1, wherein the bore comprises a tapered bore which seals against the access tube as said tube is inserted therein.

Please cancel claims 8-11.

Please add new claims 12-21.

12. (New) An implantable port comprising  
a base having a passage for receiving an access tube;  
a valve assembly in the base, said valve assembly having a bore which receives the access tube and wherein the valve assembly opens in response to movement of the access tube; and

a valve lock having a latch which shifts position to lock the valve assembly open in response to movement of the access tube;

wherein the valve assembly comprises a plunger and wherein the latch comprises a pair of space-filling elements which are displaced by the needle both downwardly, to lower the plunger to open the valve, and outwardly into the receptacle, to lock the plunger open.

13. (New) An implantable port as in claim 12, wherein the valve assembly opens in response to motion of a needle against the plunger.

14. (New) An implantable port as in claim 13, wherein the space-filling elements comprise a pair of balls which are displaced laterally.

15. (New) An implantable port as in claim 12, wherein the valve assembly is selected from the group consisting of pinch valves, sliding valves, slit valves, duckbill valves, and leaflet valves.

16. (New) An implantable port as in claim 12, wherein the bore comprises a tapered bore which seals against the access tube as said tube is inserted therein.

17. (New) An implantable port comprising  
a base having a passage for receiving an access tube;  
a valve assembly in the base, said valve assembly having a bore which receives the access tube and wherein the valve assembly opens in response to movement of the access tube;

a valve lock having a latch comprising a pair of balls which are displaced laterally into a receptacle and remain in the receptacle to lock the valve assembly open in response to movement of the access tube.

18. (New) An implantable port as in claim 17, wherein the valve assembly opens in response to motion of a needle.

19. (New) An implantable port as in claim 17, wherein the valve assembly comprises a plunger and wherein the pair of balls is displaced both downwardly, to lower the plunger to open the valve, and outwardly into the receptacle, to lock the plunger open.

20. (New) An implantable port as in claim 17, wherein the valve assembly comprises a valve selected from the group consisting of pinch valves, sliding valves, slit valves, duckbill valves, and leaflet valves.

21. (New) An implantable port as in claim 17, wherein the bore comprises a tapered bore which seals against the access tube as said tube is inserted therein.